

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute.

Unitarian Universalist around the country have committed to dismantling racism beginning with their own practices, their identity and their own stories.

This past week Deb Haaland was confirmed as the Secretary of the Interior, making her the first Indigenous cabinet member. As Secretary of the Interior, Ms Haaland is now the first Native American to lead the agency that most directly affects the lives of Native Americans. Three of the eleven bureaus within the department are dedicated to governance over and support of tribal nations. It can be said that four of the other bureaus are the arms of the government that are most at odds with tribal rights and most responsible for breaking treaties.

The importance of Ms Haaland's appointment to Native Americans can be seen in the words of Joe Williams Jr., former mayor of Ketchikan, Alaska and Tlingit tribal elder. Although he is a conservative born-again Christian, he strongly supports Haaland because, in his words, "I don't have to explain to her what it means to be an Indian."

This is a model we should look to, for selection of leaders in national and local government, private companies, and our congregations. BIPOC leadership is necessary, not just to provide equitable access to opportunity, but because people are served best by leaders who are capable of understanding their needs and concerns.

If we add the 8th principle to the 7, we need to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions. Together we will continue to educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist.